



Assemblymember John Laird

Assembly Budget Committee Chair

eNews Update



27th Assembly District

June 23, 2005

Weekly Democratic Radio Address

This week, I was honored to have been chosen by Assembly Speaker Núñez to deliver the Weekly Democratic Radio Address. The text of the address is below.

To listen to the address via MP3 format, in either English or Spanish click here:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/templates/ademmain.asp?articleid=258&zoneid=2>

"I'm Assembly Member John Laird, Chairman of the Assembly Budget Committee

One of our primary responsibilities as legislators is to craft a balanced budget for the citizens of California. This past week we presented just that, an on-time balanced budget that would have been the first to meet legislative deadlines in many years.

This year brought a particular challenge. With an on-going budget deficit in the billions of dollars – How do we balance the budget and make it the blueprint for investment in the future that Californians want?

The Governor originally proposed a budget that even he said he didn't like – with more borrowing, no transportation funding, and hits to California's seniors. He also walked away from his commitment to fund education at the levels voters approved with Proposition 98.

We began our budget review earlier than usual. We took our hearings out of the Capitol and to schools in Stockton and Sacramento. To senior centers in Los Angeles and San Diego. To transportation centers in San Bernardino, Santa Clara, and Fresno.

After one hundred hearings in all, we used the Governor's budget as a starting point and crafted a budget that would meet our basic obligations on transportation, education, and seniors, and was balanced, reduced proposed borrowing and had a solid reserve.

I'm particularly proud that Democrats have reached out with a hand of friendship to Republicans by offering a budget plan that meets both of our priorities. To those Republicans who are fearful of investing in the future, we Democrats have said: we understand where you're coming from. And we will meet you half way.

Legislation

Co-Authored by John

- SB 1—One Million Solar Roofs
- SB 840—Single Payer Healthcare
- AB 19—Marriage Equality
- AB 21—Pharmacists Required to Dispense Prescriptions
- AB 48—Minimum Wage Increase
- AB 583—California Clean Money & Fair Elections Act
- AB 696—Food for Families Act
- SCA 13—Stem Cell Panel Oversight

John in the District

6/25 – 27th Assembly District Committee, Watsonville

7/4 – Aptos Annual

We also understand that this budget won't get any better if we delay action. The price of not agreeing on a budget is just too high. Too high for our schoolchildren and their teachers. Too high for our local roads and too high for our first-responders who work so hard to keep us safe.

We have laid out a responsible blueprint for California. We will continue to ask Republican Legislators to lay down their partisan arms and join us in governing this state. Let's earn our keep here in the people's house by rejecting the blame game and passing a budget as soon as possible. The people of California deserve no less.

This is California Assembly Budget Chairman, John Laird. Thank you for listening."

Op-Ed: It's Time For A Budget That Looks To The Future

On May 31st, at the same Sacramento middle school the Governor announced his now-broken promise to fund education, Speaker Núñez and I introduced the Assembly Democratic version of the state budget.

To read my op-ed on the proposed budget, which appeared in the Santa Cruz Sentinel, Monterey Herald and Morgan Hill Times, click here:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/oped/a272005005.htm>

Proposed Tax for Wealthiest Californians Would Invest Nearly \$15 million in 27th Assembly District Schools

The State Assembly failed by a vote of 46-32 to pass AB 6, a bill that required a 2/3 vote for passage and would restore the Reagan-Wilson tax brackets for the wealthiest Californians. Authored by Assemblymember Chan (D-Oakland), AB 6 would invest \$1.151 billion in ongoing funds for K-12 school districts statewide. For schools in the 27th Assembly district, this would translate into \$14,994,029.

As I stated in my press release on the issue, Californians have made it clear that education funding is the number one issue facing the state. I think it's fair to ask the wealthiest among us to join with lower- and middle-income earners in sacrificing in order to invest in our public schools. I'm hopeful a bipartisan agreement can be reached to support this proposal.

To learn more about the how the tax would benefit 27th Assembly district schools, click here: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/press/a272005019.htm>

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Fourth of July Parade

7/4 – Morgan Hill Annual Fourth of July Parade

7/7 – California Association of Realtors, Soquel

7/8 – Democratic Century Club Luncheon, San Jose

John on the Radio

KAZU – 90.3FM
Tuesdays at 6:59p.m.

KUSP – 88.9FM
Wednesdays at 8:45a.m.

KSCO – 1080AM
Thursdays at 6:45a.m.

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